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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/NL93/00008 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 11 January 1993 (11.01.93)  <b>(30) Priority data:</b> 9200043                      13 January 1992 (13.01.92)    NL 92203481.4                12 November 1992 (12.11.92)   EP <b>(34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed:</b> AT et al.  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> DSM N.V. [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL).  <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) :</b> DE BRABANDER-VAN DEN BERG, Ellen, Marleen, Monique[NL/NL]; Hekerbeek 53, NL-6166 HX Geleen (NL). MEIJER, Egbert, Willem [NL/NL]; Maximiliaanlaan 16, NL-5583 XG Waalre (NL). VANDENBOOREN, Franciscus, Henricus, Antonius, Maria, Joseph [NL/NL]; Veulenerbank 31, NL-6213 JR Maastricht (NL). BOSMAN, Hubertus, Johannes, Mechtilda [NL/NL]; Wielewaalstraat 13, NL-6135 EN Sittard (NL).		<b>(74) Agent:</b> JACOBS, Monique, Sophie, Nicole; Octrooibureau DSM, Postbus 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen (NL).  <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CZ, FI, HU, JP, KP, KR, LK, MG, MN, MW, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SK, UA, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> DENDRITIC MACROMOLECULE AND THE PREPARATION THEREOF  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  <p>The invention relates to a dendritic macromolecule, comprising a core and branches emanating from the core, characterised in that the branches are prepared from vinyl cyanide units. The invention also relates to a process with which the dendritic macromolecule according to the invention can be prepared. The dendritic macromolecules according to the invention are not sensitive to degradation through hydrolysis reactions and are also very stable at a high temperature. The process is very suitable for use on a large scale and the synthesized intermediates do not have to be isolated.</p>		

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DENDRITIC MACROMOLECULE AND THE PREPARATION THEREOF

The invention relates to a dendritic macromolecule comprising a core and branches emanating from the core.

5 Dendritic macromolecules are three-dimensional, highly ordered oligomeric and polymeric molecules with a very good defined chemical structure. Such molecules are known and are described by for example D.A. Tomalia et al. in Angew.Chem.Int.Ed.Engl. 29 (1990), pp. 138-175. This  
10 publication describes a number of different dendritic macromolecules, for example polyamidoamine (PAMAM) dendrimers, which are also described in US-A-4507466, and polyethylene imine (PEI) dendrimers, which are also described in US-A-4631337.

15 The applications envisaged for dendritic macromolecules are as diverse as they are numerous. The aforementioned publications mention several possible applications, for example electronic applications, applications for the calibration of sieves, catalysts (and  
20 catalyst supports), selective membranes and coatings, but applications as impact modifiers or as cross-linking agents in several plastics could also be considered.

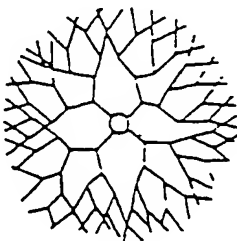
A drawback of the aforementioned dendritic macromolecules, however, is that they are very sensitive to  
25 degradation through hydrolysis reactions, while PAMAM dendrimers in particular are moreover not stable at an elevated temperature, which means that these macromolecules degrade significantly when they are exposed to higher temperatures.

30 The aim of the invention is to provide a dendritic macromolecule that is very insensitive to degradation through hydrolysis reactions and also has very good thermal stability.

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The dendritic macromolecule according to the invention is characterised in that the branches are prepared from vinyl-cyanide units. It has been found that the dendritic macromolecule according to the invention has very good thermal stability while it is also very insensitive to degradation through hydrolysis reactions. In addition, the dendritic macromolecule according to the invention has a very compact structure.

Dendritic macromolecules, also known as dendrimers or stellar dendrites, are three-dimensional, highly ordered oligomeric and polymeric molecules with a good defined chemical structure. These macromolecules are formed with the aid of alternate reaction steps, starting from a core or an initiator core. Usually the reactions occurring during the synthesis are virtually complete and selective reactions, which means that no or virtually no undesired side-reactions take place and a dendritic macromolecule is obtained that has a good defined chemical structure. Figure 1 shows a two-dimensional projection of an example of a dendritic macromolecule:



The molecules that can be used as a core according to the present invention are molecules that contain at least one functional group. Within the framework of the invention a functional group is a group that - optionally in the presence of a suitable catalyst - can react with a vinyl-cyanide unit. Groups which under favourable reaction conditions can react with a vinyl-cyanide unit are for example hydroxyl groups, primary and secondary amine groups, thiol groups, carbon compounds with electronegative substituents, such as ester groups, amide groups, ketone

groups, aldehyde groups, carboxylic acid groups and salts thereof. Preferably the core contains a hydroxyl group, a  
5 primary amine group and/or a secondary amine group as a core.

Dependent on the nature of the functional group, it may react with one or several vinyl-cyanide units. If a functional group can react with F vinyl-cyanide units this  
10 functional group has a functionality F. A hydroxyl group can react with one vinyl-cyanide unit and hence has a functionality, F, of 1. A primary amine group can react with two vinyl-cyanide units and hence has a functionality, F, of 2. In general, the functionality F has a value of 1, 2 or 3.

15 A molecule is a suitable core if it contains at least one functional group G. This molecule preferably contains 1-10 functional groups G. A suitable core can for example be chosen from the group comprising ammonia, water, methanol, polymethylenediamines, diethylenetriamine,  
20 diethylenetetramine, tetraethylenepentamine, linear and branched polyethylene imine, methylamine, hydroxyethylamine, octadecylamine, polyaminoalkylarenes, such as 1,3,5-tris(aminomethyl)benzene, tris(aminoalkyl)amines, such as tris(aminoethyl)amine, heterocyclic amines, such as  
25 imidazolines and piperidines, hydroxyethylaminoethylamine, mercaptoethyl amine, morpholine, piperazine, pentaerythritol, sorbitol, mannitol, duleitol, inositol, polyalkylenepolyols, such as polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol, glycols, such as ethylene glycol, 1,2-  
30 dimercaptoethane, polyalkylene polymercaptans, phosphine,  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid, glycine, thiophenols, phenols, melamine and derivatives thereof, such as melamine tris(hexamethylenediamine). In the process according to the invention use is preferably made of a core that is chosen  
35 from the group comprising polymethylene diamines, glycols and tris(1,3,5-aminomethyl)benzene. Polymethylenediamines, that are more preferably used as a core are hexamethylenediamine, ethylenediamine and 1,4-diaminobutane (DAB). Most preferably 1,4-diaminobutane is used as a core.

If so desired it is also possible to use a (co)polymer containing the above functional groups as a core for the dendritic macromolecule. Examples of such (co)polymers are styrene-maleimide copolymer, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer, polyethyleneimine and polymers such as polypropylene oxide, polystyrene and ethylene-propylene-diene copolymers that are functionalised with one or more of the above functional groups, such as  $\text{NH}_2$  groups.

The shape of the chosen core largely determines the shape of the macromolecule. If a small molecule is used as a core a spherical shape can be obtained. If use is made of a polymer the dendritic macromolecule obtained will have a more longitudinal shape.

A number of branches that are prepared from vinyl-cyanide units emanate the core. If the reactions that take place are complete reactions the total number of branches of the desired generation  $N$  can be calculated as follows. If  $G$  is the number of functional groups that the core contains and  $F$  is the functionality of each individual functional group, then the number of reactive sites  $R$  of the core equals the sum of the functionalities  $F$  of all of the functional groups  $G$ . The maximum number of branches of the  $N^{\text{th}}$  generation can be described as the number of reactive sites  $R$  multiplied by  $2^{N-1}$ . If the reactions that take place remain incomplete then the number of branches will be smaller, i.e. between  $R$  and  $(R \cdot 2^{N-1})$ . Usually the dendritic macromolecule contains 1-10 generations of branches, preferably 2-10, in particular 3-9.

The molecular weight of the dendritic macromolecules according to the invention is 100 - 1,000,000, preferably 700 - 100,000, in particular 1600 - 100,000.

Vinyl-cyanide units that are suitable in the light of the present invention contain a double bond and also an electron-attracting group that is directly conjugated to this double bond and they may be chosen from the group of compounds of formula 1:

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where

$\text{R}^1 =$  -H or  $-\text{CH}_3$ ;

$\text{A} =$   $-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ;

10  $\text{R}^2 =$  a hydrocarbon compound with 1-18 carbon atoms that contains 1-5 cyanide groups.

Very suitable vinyl-cyanide units that can be used are acrylonitrile and methacrylonitrile (MACN).

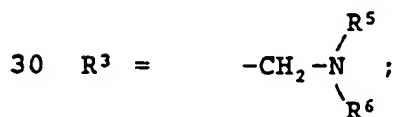
15 The dendritic macromolecule comprises a core, as described in the aforementioned section, and branches. The branches of the dendritic macromolecule comprise at least four units of formula 2:



25 where

$\text{R}^1 =$  the core or a unit of the previous generation;

$\text{R}^2 =$  -H or  $-\text{CH}_3$ ;



$\text{R}^4 =$  a hydrocarbon compound with 1-18 carbon atoms that

35 contains between 1 and 5  $(-\text{CH}_2 - \text{N} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow \text{R}^5 \\ \searrow \text{R}^6 \end{array})$  groups;

$\text{R}^5 =$  H or a unit of the next generation;

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$R_6 =$  H or a unit of the next generation,

5                    where groups  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  in each  $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{N} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow R^5 \\ \searrow R^6 \end{array})$  group  
                         may be the same or may differ from one another.

10                    The branches usually contain fewer than 1000,  
preferably fewer than 250, units of formula 2. The branches  
preferably comprise more than 6, in particular more than 10  
units of formula 2. Optionally, the branches of the  
dendritic macromolecules contain different units of formula  
2.

15                    The invention also relates to a process with which  
the dendritic macromolecule according to the present  
invention can be prepared.

Angew.Chem.Int.Ed.Engl. 29 (1990), pp. 138-175,  
describes two synthesis procedures with which dendritic  
20 macromolecules can be prepared. During one synthesis  
procedure, the so-called 'protected group method', the  
composition of the dendritic macromolecules, i.e.  
polyethyleneimine (PEI) dendrimers, is very accurately  
controlled via the strategic use of protected groups, which  
25 prevents undesired side reactions and undesired defects in  
the structure of the dendritic macromolecules. During the  
other synthesis procedure, the so-called 'excess reagent  
method', with which for example polyamidoamine (PAMA)  
dendrimers are prepared, use is made of a very large excess  
30 of reagents, which statistically minimises the risk of  
undesired reactions and defects.

The aforementioned 'protected group method' is  
based on the presence of protected aziridine rings. The  
aziridine rings are opened with the aid of primary amines,  
35 after which the deprotection is effected with the aid of a  
strong acid. The complex isolation procedures, the low yield  
of the synthesis procedure and the use of expensive reagents  
make this method for the preparation of dendritic  
macromolecules unsuitable for large-scale application.

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The aforementioned 'excess reagent method' includes as a reaction step the complete Michael condensation of primary amine groups to methyl methacrylate, followed by amidation using ethylenediamine. However, the synthesis of the polyamidoamine dendrimers thus formed requires a very large excess of reagents to prevent undesired side reactions. This drawback is also described by D.A. Tomalia in Angew.Chem.Int.Ed.Engl. 29 (1990), p. 148. The greater part of the excess amount of reagents is removed through evaporation in for example a Rotavapor, after which the last remains of the reagents are removed from the viscous reaction product in a precipitation step. The intermediate product between the various synthesis steps must however be completely pure, which means that the precipitation step has to be repeated several times. These complicating factors make this synthesis procedure for dendritic macromolecules also unsuitable for large-scale application.

The drawbacks of each of the aforementioned synthesis procedures are so great that the use of these procedures on a large - and hence commercially attractive - scale involves insurmountable problems, as also already commented by J. Alper in Science 251 (March 1991), pp. 1562-1564: 'The main stumbling block to most of these applications is that large-scale synthetic methods remain to be developed.'

The present invention provides a process for the preparation of dendritic macromolecules that does not present the above drawbacks.

The process for the preparation of the dendritic macromolecule according to the invention is characterised in that it comprises steps a) through c):

- a) substantially every functional group of the core is caused to react with a vinyl-cyanide unit;
- b) substantially every incorporated nitrile unit is reduced to an amine group;
- c) substantially every amine group is caused to react with vinyl-cyanide units;

of which steps b) and c) are carried out alternately (N-1) times to obtain a macromolecule of the desired generation N.

5 The value of N usually varies from 1 to 10; preferably N has a value of 3-10. It is possible to stop the preparation process after reaction step b). This results in a dendritic macromolecule of generation 1½, 2½ or higher. In the light of the present invention substantially usually means at

10 least 80%. Preferably, this is at least 90%, more preferably at least 95%, most preferably at least 99%.

It has been found that the synthesis procedure for the preparation of the dendritic macromolecule according to the invention does not present the aforementioned drawbacks,

15 which means that this method is very suitable for use on a large scale. Moreover, with the process according to the invention it is not necessary to each time isolate and purify the product obtained in the individual intermediate steps. Hence the dendritic macromolecule according to the

20 present invention can be obtained on a large scale in a simple manner.

In step a) of the process according to the invention substantially every functional group of the core with a functionality F is caused to react with F vinyl-

25 cyanide units. The ensuing reaction, for example the Michael condensation of a primary amine group to a vinyl-cyanide unit, usually takes place in solution. The solvent used for this purpose is usually chosen so that neither the course of the ensuing reactions nor the non-occurrence of undesired

30 side reactions are adversely affected. It is hence important that the solvent used does not react with the functional groups of the core under the reaction conditions used. Such solvents can be chosen from for example the group comprising water, tetrahydrofuran, various alcohols, such as methanol,

35 ethanol, isopropanol and the like, various ethers, and mixtures of these solvents. The solvent that is finally to be chosen will depend greatly on the nature of the functional groups of the core. Preferably water, methanol, or a mixture of the two is used as a solvent.

If it is desirable to cause every reactive site R of the core to react with a vinyl-cyanide unit during this reaction step then the ratio of the reagents, which can be described as the ratio of the number of vinyl-cyanide units to the number of reactive sites, must be at least 1. Usually this ratio is between 1 and 5, more preferably between 1 and 3. If this ratio is less than 1 then not every reactive site R will react with a vinyl-cyanide unit.

The temperature during step a) is usually between 0 and 100°C, preferably between 5 and 70°C.

Optionally, a catalyst is added to the reaction mixture during step a) so as to ensure that the reaction of the functional groups with the vinyl-cyanide units proceeds well. Examples of suitable catalysts are weak acids, for example acetic acid. Usually the amount of catalyst that is added to the reaction mixture is 0-5 mol.%, relative to the number of reactive sites R.

In step b) of the process according to the invention substantially every incorporated vinyl-cyanide unit is reduced to an amine group, preferably a primary amine group. If the incorporated vinyl-cyanide unit is acrylonitrile a propylamine (PA) unit is thus formed. The ensuing reduction reaction usually takes place in solution. The solvent used for this purpose is usually chosen from the group comprising diamines (for example alkanediamines such as ethylenediamine), water, ammonia, various alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol and the like, various ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran and dioxane, and mixtures of these solvents. Preferably, water, methanol, ethyldiamine, 1,3-aminopropane or a mixture of these solvents is used as a solvent.

The reduction reaction may for example be effected by causing the incorporated vinyl-cyanide unit to react with H<sub>2</sub> gas. If complete reduction is desired, the H<sub>2</sub>/nitrile groups molar ratio must be at least 2. If the molar ratio is smaller than 2 complete reduction will not take place. Usually the reduction step is carried out in the presence of

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a suitable catalyst. In general use is made of a reducing catalyst, preferably a heterogeneous reducing catalyst.

5           The catalyst that is used according to the invention is a catalyst that comprises a metal from group VIII of the periodic system of the elements as shown in the cover of the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 58th edition, CRC Press, 1977-1978. It is known that metals of  
10 group VIII are active in the hydrogenation of nitriles. See for example EP-A-0077911. Very suitable are nickel, cobalt, platinum, palladium and rhodium. In order to possess sufficient catalytic activity, the metal must have a large contact surface. The metal may be used as such or it may be  
15 applied to a suitable carrier.

Particularly suitable for use as a catalyst according to the invention is Raney nickel or Raney cobalt. See US-A-1628190 for a description of these Raney catalysts and their preparation.

20           Raney nickel comprises substantially nickel and aluminium, the latter being in the form of metallic aluminium, aluminium oxides or aluminium hydroxides. Small amounts of other metals, such as iron and/or chromium, in elemental or bound form, may be added to the Raney nickel to  
25 increase its activity and selectivity in the hydrogenation of particular groups of compounds. It is known that Raney nickel promoted with iron and/or chromium is extremely suitable for the reduction of nitrile groups; see for example S.R. Montgomery, Catalysis of Organic Reactions 5,  
30 pp. 383-409 (1981).

Raney cobalt also contains aluminium and may be provided with promoters. It is known for example that Raney cobalt promoted with chromium is very suitable for the hydrogenation of nitriles.

35           Before use, the Raney nickel or cobalt catalyst is often pretreated with an alkaline solution, for example KOH or NaOH, to favourably influence the selectivity of the reduction reaction. The amount of hydroxide to be used for this purpose depends on the amount of catalyst. Usually use

is made of between 0.01 and 0.2 gram of hydroxide per gram of catalyst (dry weight). Preferably use is made of between  
5 0.03 and 0.18 gram of hydroxide per gram of catalyst, most preferably of between 0.05 and 0.15 gram of hydroxide per gram of catalyst. The pretreatment is carried out by dissolving the desired amount of hydroxide in the smallest possible amount of suitable solvent, for example water,  
10 after which the solution obtained is added to the catalyst which has been rinsed with water beforehand. The mixture thus obtained is intensively stirred.

The concentration of the catalyst, relative to the total weight of the reaction mixture, is usually between 1  
15 and 35 wt.%, preferably between 5 and 20 wt.%, most preferably between 6 and 12 wt.%.

The reduction reaction (step b) may be carried out in for example a sealed reactor, in a  $H_2$  atmosphere. The hydrogen pressure in this sealed reactor is usually between  
20 1 and 500 bar, preferably between 10 and 200 bar, most preferably between 10 and 100 bar. The reaction temperature is not critical; usually it is between 0 and 200°C, preferably between 10 and 100°C.

In step c) of the process according to the  
25 invention substantially every functional group is caused to react with vinyl-cyanide units (Michael condensation reaction). If the functional group is a primary amine group, it can react with two vinyl-cyanide units. The reaction conditions during this reaction step may be chosen so that  
30 they are the same as those during reaction step a).

When reaction steps a) through c) are carried out once a second-generation ( $N=2$ ) dendritic macromolecule is obtained. A higher-generation dendritic macromolecule can be obtained by alternately repeating reaction steps b) and c).  
35 If reaction steps b) and c) are carried out alternately  $N$  times a  $(N+1)^{th}$ -generation dendritic macromolecule is obtained. If so desired, the reaction product can be isolated after reaction step b) to obtain a dendritic macromolecule of a generation 1.5, 2.5 or higher. The

reaction product obtained can be isolated after any chosen reaction step.

5           The dendritic macromolecule obtained may optionally be entirely or partially modified with all kinds of functional groups. This may for example be effected through the complete or partial reaction of the amine or nitril groups present, optionally in the presence of a suitable catalyst, with suitable reagents. Examples of such reagents are inorganic acids, such as HCl, unsaturated aliphatic esters and amides, such as acrylic ester, methacrylic ester, crotylic ester and acrylamide, acid halides, such as acid chloride, acryloyl chloride, alkyl halides, such as ethyl bromoacetate and allyl bromide, aryl halides, such as benzyl chloride, hydroxyethylmethacrylate, tosyl halides, such as tosyl chloride, anhydrides, such as maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, dicarboxylic acids, such as terephthalic acid and adipic acid, oxiranes such as ethyleneoxide and epichlorohydrin, (a)cyclic aldehydes, such as formaldehyde, ethanal and hexanal, p-formylphenylacetic acid and 1,4,5,8-naphthalenetetraacetaldehyde.

20           The resulting dendritic macromolecules have chain-ends, that are entirely or partly modified with functional groups. These functional groups are -for example- chosen from the group of amine, nitril, hydroxide, ester, acid, salt, amide, imide, tosylate and thiol groups. A mixture of several different functional groups can be used, if required.

30           Partly in view of their good thermal stability and their very limited sensitivity to hydrolysis, the dendritic macromolecules according to the invention can be mixed extremely well with a thermoplastic polymer or a polymer composition.

35           The thermoplastic polymer can be chosen from for example the group comprising polyolefines, such as polyethylene and polypropylene, polyesters, such as polyalkylene terephthalates (such as polyethylene terephthalate and polybutylene terephthalate) and

polycarbonates, polyamides, such as nylon 6, nylon 4.6, nylon 8, nylon 6.10 and the like, polystyrene, 5 polyoxymethylene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers, styrene-maleimide copolymers, polysulphonic acid, polyimides, styrene-maleic anhydride copolymers, poly(methyl methacrylate), poly(vinyl alcohol), or polymer compositions 10 of several of these polymers. This list is however by no means limitative.

Optionally, additives may be added to a mixture of dendritic macromolecules according to the invention and a thermoplastic polymer or a polymer composition. Examples of 15 such additives are impact modifiers, stabilizers, antioxidants, lubricants, fillers, flame retardants, colourants, pigments, reinforcing fibres and conductive fibres.

The invention will be further elucidated with 20 reference to the following examples without being limited thereto.

#### Example I

1200 ml of methanol and 150 g (1.7 mol) of 1,4- 25 diaminobutane (DAB, substrate) were introduced into a 2-litre three-necked flask equipped with a stirrer, a cooler, a thermometer and a dropping funnel. After this mixture had been cooled to a temperature of 10°C a solution of 400 g (7.6 mol) of acrylonitrile (ACN) in 100 ml of methanol was 30 added dropwise in 2 hours. Then the reaction mixture thus obtained was heated for 16 hours (temperature 40°C).

After the mixture had subsequently cooled to room temperature both the methanol and the excess acrylonitrile were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue thus 35 obtained was dissolved in methanol at a temperature of 50°C, after which, after crystallization and isolation, the desired product, i.e. the desired tetranitrile, was obtained in a pure form, as white needles; the product was found to have a melting point of 52.8°C. The yield was 92%.

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Analysis of the isolated product by means of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry showed that the product obtained was  $\text{DAB}(\text{ACN})_4$ .

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 119 ppm, CN; 53.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ; 49.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 24.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 16.9 ppm  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ .  
10  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 2.85 ppm, t, 2H,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 2.55 ppm, m, 1H,  $\text{NCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ; 2.48 ppm, t, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 1.55 ppm, m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ .

#### Example II

15 8.0 g of Raney nickel catalyst (BLM 112  $\text{W}^{\text{R}}$  from Degussa; the composition as specified by the supplier is 85 wt.% Ni, 2.0 wt.% Fe, 2.5 wt.% Cr and 9.7 wt.% Al) was pretreated with 0.8 g of KOH dissolved in 10 ml of demineralised water. Then the catalyst was 'rinsed' three  
20 times using 50 ml of ethylenediamine (EDA). The temperature during this pretreatment was  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .

Then the catalyst and 100 ml of EDA were introduced into an autoclave with a volume of 160 ml. The autoclave was closed, flushed several times with  $\text{H}_2$  gas and then heated to  
25 a temperature of  $40^\circ\text{C}$ , at a pressure of 60 atm.  $\text{H}_2$ , while the reactor contents were stirred.

Next, 4 g of  $\text{DAB}(\text{ACN})_4$  dissolved in 10 g of EDA was pressed into the autoclave with the aid of a so-called apportioning vessel that had been flushed with  $\text{H}_2$  gas  
30 several times and had been brought to a pressure of 70 atm. The reduction reaction took place at a pressure of 70 atm. Complete reduction took 120 minutes. Analysis of the isolated product by means of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy showed that the product obtained was 1,4-diaminobutane-n,n'-tetra-  
35 1-propylamine,  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$ .

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (2x); 51.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 28.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 23.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$  (2x).

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Example III

Example I was repeated, only now 5.0 g of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub> was used as a substrate instead of 1,4-diaminobutane.

Analysis of the isolated product by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that the product obtained was DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(ACN)<sub>8</sub>. The yield was 91%.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 118.9 ppm, CN (8x); 53.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 51.5 and 51.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (8x); 49.6 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN (8x); 25.0 and 24.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> and NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (6x); 16.9 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CN (8x).

15 Example IV

Example II was repeated, only now 2.0 g of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(ACN)<sub>8</sub> was reduced for 1200 minutes to obtain DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>, as appeared from analysis of the isolated product by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

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<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 53.6 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 51.7 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (8x); 51.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (8x); 39.6 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (8x); 28.9 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (8x); 24.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (2x); 22.3 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (4x).

25

Example V

Example III was repeated, only now 2.0 g of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub> was used as a substrate instead of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>.

The isolated product was analysed with the aid of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, which showed that it was DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(ACN)<sub>16</sub>.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 119.0 ppm, CN (16x); 54.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 52.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (8x); 51.5 and 51.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (16x); 49.5 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN (16x); 25.0 and 24.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> en NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (10x); 24.3 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (4x); 16.9 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CN (16x).

Example VI

Example IV was repeated, only now 2.0 g of

- 5 DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(ACN)<sub>16</sub> was reduced at a temperature of 40°C for 4200 minutes to obtain DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>, as appeared from analysis of the results obtained with the aid of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

- 10 <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 53.6 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 51.7 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (24x); 51.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (16x); 39.6 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (16x); 28.9 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (16x); 24.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (2x); 22.3 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (12x).

15 Example VII

Example V was repeated, only now 3.0 g of

DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub> was used as a substrate instead of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>.

The isolated product was analysed with the aid of

- 20 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, which showed that the product obtained was DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(ACN)<sub>32</sub>.

- <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 119.0 ppm, CN (32x); 54.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 52.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (24x); 51.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (32x); 49.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN (32x); 24.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> and NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (18x); 24.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (12x); 16.8 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CN (32x).
- 25

Example VIII

Example VI was repeated only now 2.0 g of

DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(ACN)<sub>32</sub> was reduced for 4200 minutes at a temperature of 60°C to obtain DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(PA)<sub>32</sub>, as appeared from the analysis of the results obtained by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

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<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 51.7 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (56x); 51.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (32x); 39.6 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (32x); 28.8 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (32x); 22.3 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (28x).

Example IX

Example VII was repeated only now 2.0 g of

- 5 DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(PA)<sub>32</sub> was used as a substrate instead of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>.

The product obtained was analysed with the aid of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, which showed that it was DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(PA)<sub>32</sub>(ACN)<sub>64</sub>.

10

- <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 119.0 ppm, CN (64x); 54.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 52.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (56x); 51.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (64x); 49.5 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN (64x); 25.0 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> and NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (34x); 24.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (28x); 16.9 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CN (64x).
- 15

Example X

Example VIII was repeated only now 2.0 g of

- DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(PA)<sub>32</sub>(ACN)<sub>64</sub> was reduced for 4200  
 20 minutes at a temperature of 80°C to obtain DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub>(PA)<sub>32</sub>(PA)<sub>64</sub>, as appeared from analysis of the results obtained by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

- <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 51.7 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (120x); 51.2  
 25 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (64x); 39.6 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (64x); 28.8 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (64x); 22.3 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (60x).

Example XI

- 20 g of acrylonitrile was dissolved in 10 ml of  
 30 methanol. At a temperature of 10°C this solution was then added dropwise to a solution of 5.0 g of ethanolamine (ETAM) in methanol. Then the reaction mixture was heated for 16 hours (at a temperature of 40°C). After evaporation of the solvent and washing of the residue with ether, analysis of  
 35 the results of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that the reaction product obtained was dinitrile ethanol (ETAM(ACN)<sub>2</sub>).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 119.0 ppm, CN; 59.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; 55.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; 49.7 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 17.4 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ .  
5  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 3.66 ppm, t, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; 2.91 ppm, t, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 2.72 ppm, 1H, t,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; 2.53 ppm, 2H, t,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ .

#### Example XII

10 Example II was repeated only now 2.0 g of ETAM(ACN) $_2$ , dissolved in methanol, was used as a substrate. After 60 minutes at a temperature of 40°C complete and selective reduction appeared to have taken place in methanol and analysis of the product obtained by means of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  
15 spectroscopy showed that the desired ETAM(PA) $_2$  had been obtained.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 59.1 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; 55.0 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; 51.8 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (2x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (2x); 28.9  
20 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (2x).

#### Example XIII

At a temperature of 5°C 10 g of acrylonitrile (189 mmol) was added dropwise to 0.5 g of anion exchanger  
25 (Lewatit MP 500 MB<sup>R</sup>, brought into hydroxy configuration with the aid of a 3% NaOH solution, followed by rinsing with water to a neutral pH) and 2.0 g of polyethylene glycol (PEG,  $M_n = 455$ , 4.4 mmol). The mixture obtained was stirred for 12 hours at a temperature of 20°C. The product obtained  
30 was filtered off and rinsed with dichloromethane. After evaporation of the dichloromethane and the excess acrylonitrile the product was washed with diethylether (three times). Analysis of the results obtained by means of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy showed that the isolated oil was  
35 PEG(ACN) $_2$ .

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 70.5 ppm,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{O}$ ; 65.9 ppm,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 18.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ ; 118.2 ppm, CN.

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Example XIV

Example II was repeated only now 2.0 g of PEG(ACN)<sub>2</sub> was used as a substrate and methanol as a solvent for the reaction. After 300 minutes at a temperature of 37°C complete and selective reduction appeared to have taken place and analysis of the results obtained by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that the desired PEG(PA)<sub>2</sub> had been obtained.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 70.0 ppm, OCH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>O; 69.3 ppm, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; 38.2 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; 32.0 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>.

Example XV

1.0 g of ε-aminocaproic acid (ε-AC, 8.0 mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml of water and deprotonated with 0.5 equivalents of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. At a temperature of 0°C an excess amount of acrylonitrile was then added (4 molar equivalents). Then the mixture was heated for 12 hours (at a temperature of 40°C). Analysis of the results of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that the colourless oil that was obtained after evaporation of the solvents and the excess acrylonitrile was ε-AC(ACN)<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.0 ppm, CO; 121.4 ppm, CN; 53.0 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>; 48.8 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN; 38.1 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CO; 27.0 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>; 26.2/26.1 ppm CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO; 15.6 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CN.

Example XVI

Example II was repeated only now 2.0 g of ε-AC(ACN)<sub>2</sub> was dissolved in water and used as a substrate. After 120 minutes at a temperature of 40°C complete and selective reduction appeared to have taken place and analysis of the results obtained by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that the desired ε-AC(PA)<sub>2</sub> had been obtained.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 182.6 ppm CO; 53.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ; 51.6 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (2x); 40.0 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (2x); 38.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}$ ; 29.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (2x); 27.8 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ; 26.5 ppm/25.8 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ .

#### Example XVII

Example II was repeated only now n-butanol was used as a rinsing agent for the catalyst and as a solvent for the substrate and for the reaction. After 180 minutes' reaction at a temperature of 40°C complete and selective reduction appeared to have taken place to the desired  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$ .

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (2x); 51.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 28.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 23.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$  (2x).

#### Example XVIII

Example II was repeated only now the catalyst was rinsed with tetrahydrofuran (THF). Then 2.0 g of  $\text{DAB}(\text{ACN})_4$  was dissolved in THF and THF was also used as a solvent for the reaction. A  $\text{H}_2$  pressure of 30 atmosphere was used and a temperature of 80°C. After 120 minutes' reaction complete and selective reduction appeared to have taken place to the desired  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$ .

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (2x); 51.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 28.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 23.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$  (2x).

#### Example XIX

Example XVIII was repeated only now use was made of a reaction temperature of 40°C. After 240 minutes' reaction complete and selective reduction to the desired  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$  appeared to have taken place.

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$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (2x); 51.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 28.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 23.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$  (2x).

Example XX

8.0 g of Raney nickel catalyst (BLM 112 W<sup>R</sup> from Degussa; the composition contains 85 wt.% Ni, 2.0 wt.% Fe, 2.5 wt.% Cr and 9.7 wt.% Al) was pretreated with KOH in the same manner as in example II. After this pretreatment the catalyst was rinsed once with 50 ml of demineralised water. Then the catalyst was transferred to the autoclave along with 100 ml of demineralised water, after which the autoclave was flushed with  $\text{H}_2$  gas and heated to a temperature of 60°C. Then 4.0 g of  $\text{DAB}(\text{ACN})_4$  was dissolved in 5.0 ml of methanol and transferred to the autoclave. In 90 minutes, at a  $\text{H}_2$  pressure of 70 atmosphere, complete and selective reduction to  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$  took place.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (2x); 51.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 28.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 23.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$  (2x).

25 Example XXI

Example XX was repeated only Raney Cobalt (type Grace 2724<sup>R</sup>, promoted with Cr) was used as a catalyst. After 15 minutes' reaction complete and selective reduction to the desired  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$  had taken place.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (2x); 51.1 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 39.5 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 28.8 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (4x); 23.9 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$  (2x).

35 Example XXII

10 g of melamine(1,3,5-tris(2-hydroxyethyl)amine) (23.6 mmol MEL(HMA)<sub>3</sub>) was dissolved in 150 ml of methanol. The solution obtained was added to 15 g of acrylonitrile (283 mmol) at a temperature of 0°C. The mixture thus

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obtained was stirred for 1 hour at a temperature of 20°C and then for 12 hours at a temperature of 45°C. The solvent and the excess acrylonitrile were removed at reduced pressure with the aid of a Rotavapor at a temperature of 40°C. The results of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic analysis showed that the product obtained after precipitation in diethylether and isolation, a viscous red oil, was pure  $\text{MEL}(\text{HMA})_3(\text{ACN})_6$ .

10

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 165.8 ppm, NCN (3x); 118.7 ppm, CN (6x); 53.4 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (3x); 49.6 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$  (6x); 40.5 ppm,  $\text{NHCH}_2$  (3x); 29.7 ppm,  $\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (3x); 27.3 ppm, 26.8 ppm, 26.7 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  (9x); 17.0 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$  (6x).

15

#### Example XXIII

Example XX was repeated only now 2.3 g of  $\text{MEL}(\text{HMA})_3(\text{ACN})_6$  was dissolved as a substrate. The reduction reaction was carried out at a temperature of 60°C. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra showed that complete and selective reduction to the desired melamine(HMA)<sub>3</sub>(PA)<sub>6</sub> had taken place after 1020 minutes' reaction.

25

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 165.7 ppm, NCN (3x); 53.7 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (3x); 51.3 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (6x); 40.8 ppm,  $\text{NHCH}_2$  (3x); 39.7 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (6x); 29.8 ppm,  $\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2$  (3x); 29.1 ppm,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  (6x); 27.6 ppm, 26.9 ppm, 25.6 ppm,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  (9x).

30

#### Example XXIV

25 g of Jeffamine D-2000<sup>®</sup> (a modified polypropylene oxide,  $M_v = 2000$ , Texaco Chemical Company) was dissolved in 50 ml of methanol. The solution obtained was added to 6.0 g of acrylonitrile at a temperature of 0°C. The resultant mixture was stirred for 1 hour at a temperature of 20°C and then for 12 hours at a temperature of 40°C. Then the product obtained was dissolved in a mixture of 100 ml of pentane and 5.0 ml of diethylether. The results of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic

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analysis showed that the product obtained after isolation was Jeff(ACN)<sub>4</sub> (a colourless liquid; yield 94%).

5

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 118.7 ppm, CN; 75.1-75.7 ppm, OCH<sub>2</sub>; 73.0-73.6 ppm, NCH; 52.2-52.5 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN; 17.2-17.5 ppm, CCH<sub>3</sub>; 19.1 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CN.

10 Example XXV

8.0 g of Raney Nickel catalyst (BLM 112 W<sup>R</sup> from Degussa; the composition contains 85 wt.% Ni, 2.0 wt.% Fe, 2.5 wt.% Cr and 9.7 wt.% Al) was pretreated with 0.8 g of KOH dissolved in 10 ml of demineralised water. After precipitation of the catalyst thus obtained the water layer was decanted and then 50 ml of ethylenediamine was added while the mixture was stirred. Then the catalyst thus washed was filtered off and was added to 100 ml of ethylenediamine in a 160-ml autoclave. The autoclave was closed and was flushed several times with H<sub>2</sub> gas. Next, 70-bar H<sub>2</sub> gas was introduced into the autoclave, at a temperature of 38°C, and the contents were intensively stirred.

Then 2.0 g of Jeff(ACN)<sub>4</sub>, dissolved in 10 g of ethylenediamine, was introduced into the autoclave. Complete reduction was found to have taken place after 3 hours. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that the product obtained was pure Jeff(PA)<sub>4</sub>.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 74.8-75.9 ppm, OCH<sub>2</sub>; 72.4-73.3 ppm, NCH; 53.0-52.7 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; 39.1 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; 32.3 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; 16.5-17.3 ppm, CCH<sub>3</sub>.

Example XXVI

900 ml of water and 75 g (0.85 mol) of 1,4-diaminobutane (substrate) were introduced into a three-necked flask with a volume of 2 litres, which was fitted with a stirrer, a cooler, a thermometer and a dropping funnel. After this mixture had been cooled to a temperature of 10°C, a solution of 200 g (3.8 mol) of acrylonitrile was

- 24 -

added dropwise in 2 hours. Then the reaction mixture thus obtained was heated for 9 hours (temperature 65°C).

5           After the mixture had then cooled to room temperature the water and the excess acrylonitrile were azeotropically evaporated. The residue thus obtained, which contained DAB(ACN)<sub>4</sub> and water, was then reduced with the aid of Raney cobalt catalyst that had not been pretreated. the  
10 reaction was stopped after 1 hour, after which the desired product was obtained as a colourless oil. Analysis of the product by means of <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy showed that pure DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub> had been formed. The yield was 98%.

15 <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 53.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 51.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (4x); 39.5 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (4x); 28.8 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (4x); 23.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (2x).

#### Example XXVII

20           The thermal stability of the dendritic macromolecules obtained in examples I through VIII was measured via ThermoGraphic Analysis (TGA). This was done by heating approx. 2.5 mg of the product in question with the aid of a Perkin Elmer (7-series) in a neon atmosphere from  
25 30°C to 900°C, at a rate of 20°C/min. Table 1 shows the temperatures at which maximum decomposition of the product takes place.

Table 1: Results of the TGA of the products obtained in examples I through VII.

5	Product	Temperature [°C]
	DAB(ACN) <sub>4</sub>	330.1
10	DAB(PA) <sub>4</sub>	330.0
	DAB(PA) <sub>4</sub> (ACN) <sub>8</sub>	331.8
	DAB(PA) <sub>4</sub> (PA) <sub>8</sub>	378.0
	DAB(PA) <sub>4</sub> (PA) <sub>8</sub> (ACN) <sub>16</sub>	332.0
	DAB(PA) <sub>4</sub> (PA) <sub>8</sub> (PA) <sub>16</sub>	424.0
15	DAB(PA) <sub>4</sub> (PA) <sub>8</sub> (PA) <sub>16</sub> (ACN) <sub>32</sub>	331.5

Example XXVIII

900 ml of water and 75 g (0.85 mol) of  
 20 diaminobutane were introduced into a 2-litre three-necked  
 flask fitted with a stirrer, a cooler, a thermometer and a  
 dropping funnel. After this mixture had been cooled to a  
 temperature of 10°C, a solution of 200 g of acrylonitrile in  
 50 ml of methanol was added dropwise, at such a rate that  
 25 the temperature of the reaction mixture remained below 15°C.  
 After the entire amount had been added the reaction mixture  
 was kept at room temperature for two hours, after which it  
 was heated to a temperature of 65°C for 9 hours. Then the  
 reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the  
 30 product obtained was isolated.

The results of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy and mass  
 spectrometry showed that the isolated product was DAB(ACN)<sub>4</sub>.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 119 ppm, CN; 53.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>;  
 35 49.4 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN; 24.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN; 16.9 ppm CH<sub>2</sub>CN.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.85 ppm, t, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN; 2.55  
 ppm, m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>; 2.48 ppm, t, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CN; 1.55 ppm, m,  
 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N.

Example XXIX

30 ml of water and 5.0 g (58 mmol) of diaminobutane  
5 were introduced into a three-necked flask with a volume of  
250 ml that was fitted with a stirrer, a cooler, a  
thermometer and a dropping funnel. After the mixture had  
been cooled to a temperature of 10°C, a solution of 15 g  
(280 mmol) of acrylonitrile was added dropwise, at such a  
10 rate that the temperature remained below 15°C. After the  
entire solution had been added, the mixture was kept at room  
temperature for two hours, after which the reaction mixture  
was heated to a temperature of 45°C for 16 hours.

After cooling of the reaction mixture to room  
15 temperature the water and the excess acrylonitrile were  
evaporated. 2.5 g of the product obtained ( $\text{DAB}(\text{ACN})_4$ ) was  
dissolved in 4 ml of methanol. This solution was introduced  
into a 160-ml autoclave along with 8.0 g of Raney cobalt  
catalyst (type Grace 2724<sup>R</sup>, promoted with Cr). Then the  
20 autoclave was closed, flushed several times with  $\text{H}_2$  gas and  
heated to a temperature of 80°C under 30 atmosphere  $\text{H}_2$   
pressure, with stirring of the reactor contents. These  
reaction conditions were maintained for one hour.

After removal of the catalyst through filtration,  
25 and evaporation of the water, 2.0 g of the residue  
( $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4$ ) was dissolved in 20 ml of water, to which  
solution 5.4 g of acrylonitrile was added dropwise, at a  
temperature of 10°C. The mixture was kept at room  
temperature for two hours, after which it was heated for 16  
30 hours at a temperature of 40°C. After cooling the water and  
the excess acrylonitrile were evaporated under reduced  
pressure. The colourless residue thus obtained (pure  
 $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4(\text{ACN})_6$ ) was then reduced in the same manner as  
 $\text{DAB}(\text{ACN})_4$  as described in this example. Complete and  
35 selective reduction took place within 90 minutes.

The  $\text{DAB}(\text{PA})_4(\text{PA})_6$  thus formed was dissolved in 30  
ml of water. Next, 5.0 g of acrylonitrile was added dropwise  
at a temperature of 10°C. Then the reaction mixture was kept  
at room temperature for two hours, after which it was heated

to 40°C for 16 hours. After cooling, the water and the excess acrylonitrile were evaporated under reduced pressure, after which the colourless residue, i.e.

DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(ACN)<sub>16</sub>, was completely and selectively reduced to DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(PA)<sub>8</sub>(PA)<sub>16</sub> in two hours, in the manner described in this example for the reduction of DAB(ACN)<sub>4</sub>.

#### 10 Example XXX

Ethylacrylate (EAC, 6.3 g; 63 mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of methanol. The solution obtained was cooled in an ice bath, while 0.5 g of DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub> was added with stirring. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 hours, after which the product, a light yellow liquid, was isolated. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic analysis of the product showed that pure DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(EAC)<sub>8</sub> had been formed.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 172.5 ppm, CO (8x); 60.2 ppm, COOCH<sub>2</sub> (8x); 54.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 51.9 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (8x); 49.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO (8x); 32.6 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CO (8x); 25.0 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 24.7 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (4x); 14.2 ppm, CH<sub>3</sub> (8x).

#### 25 Example XXXI

DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(EAC)<sub>8</sub> (0.5 g, 0.45 mmol) was dissolved in 3.0 ml of methanol. The solution obtained was cooled to a temperature of 0°C with the aid of an ice bath, while a large excess of ethanolamine (EA) was added dropwise. Then the product was isolated. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic analysis of the product, a yellow oil, showed that pure DAB(PA)<sub>4</sub>(EA)<sub>8</sub> had been formed.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 175.6 ppm, CONH (8x); 60.3 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>OH (8x); 53.3 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x); 51.5 ppm en 51.2 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N (8x); 49.1 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO (8x); 41.8 ppm, CONHCH<sub>2</sub> (8x); 32.9 ppm, CH<sub>2</sub>CO (8x); 24.0 ppm, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> (2x).

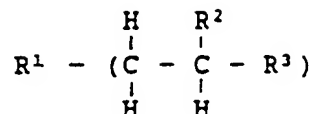
The examples show that different generations of dendritic macromolecules according to the invention can be synthesized. The synthesized macromolecules according to the invention are not sensitive to degradation through hydrolysis reactions. The synthesis can be carried out in various solvents, using different catalysts and different reaction conditions. It has also been shown that it is possible to carry out the various reaction steps after one another without having to isolate the (intermediate) product obtained after each individual step, which means that it is very simple to scale up the process. The outermost generation of the dendritic macromolecules can be modified with several functional groups. Finally, it has been shown that the dendritic macromolecules according to the invention have very good thermal stability.

C L A I M S

- 5 1. Dendritic macromolecule containing a core and branches  
emanating from the core, characterised in that the  
branches are prepared from vinyl-cyanide units.
2. Dendritic macromolecule according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the core is a molecule that  
10 contains 1-10 functional groups which each,  
independently of one another, have a functionality of 1,  
2 or 3.
3. Dendritic macromolecule according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the core is a (co)polymer that  
15 contains functional groups which each, independently of  
one another, have a functionality of 1, 2 or 3.
4. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims  
1-3, characterised in that the core contains a hydroxyl  
group, a primary amine group and/or a secondary amine  
20 group as functional group.
5. Dendritic macromolecule according to claim 1 or claim 3,  
characterised in that the core is chosen from the group  
comprising polymethylene diamines, glycols and  
tris(1,3,5-aminoethyl)benzene.
- 25 6. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims  
1-5, a number of generations of branches being present,  
characterised in that the number of branches of the  $N^{th}$   
generation is larger than or the same as the number of  
reactive sites R of the core and smaller than or the  
30 same as the number of reactive sites R of the core  
multiplied by  $2^{N-1}$ .
7. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims  
1-6, characterised in that the number of generations, N,  
is between 3 and 10.
- 35 8. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims  
1-7, characterised in that the monomeric vinyl-cyanide  
unit is acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile.

9. Dendritic macromolecule whose branches contain units according to the formula

5



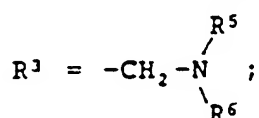
10

where

$R^1$  = the core or a unit of the previous generation;

$R^2$  = -H or -CH<sub>3</sub>;

15



$R^4$  = a hydrocarbon compound with 1-8 carbon atoms that

contains between 1 and 5  $(-\text{CH}_2 - \begin{array}{c} R^5 \\ / \\ \text{N} \\ \backslash \\ R^6 \end{array})$  groups;

20

$R^5$  = H or a unit of the next generation;

$R^6$  = H or a unit of the next generation,

where groups  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  in every

25

$-\text{CH}_2 - \begin{array}{c} R^5 \\ / \\ \text{N} \\ \backslash \\ R^6 \end{array}$  group may be the same or may differ from one another.

10. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-9, characterised in that it is entirely or partly modified with functional groups.

30

11. Dendritic macromolecule according to claim 10, characterised in that the functional groups are chosen from the group comprising unsaturated aliphatic esters and amides, acid halides, alkyl halides, aryl halides, tosyl halides, anhydrides, dicarboxylic acids and (a)cyclic aldehydes.

35

12. Dendritic macromolecule according to claim 10 or claim 11, characterised in that the functional groups are ethyl acrylate.



13. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-12, characterised in that the molecular weight is between 100 and 1000,000.
14. Process for the preparation of a dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-13, characterised in that the process comprises steps a) through c):
- a) substantially every functional group of the core is caused to react with a monomeric vinyl-cyanide unit;
- b) substantially every incorporated nitrile unit is reduced to an amine group;
- c) substantially every amine group is caused to react with monomeric vinyl-cyanide units;
- where steps b) and c) are alternately carried out (N-1) times in order to obtain a macromolecule of the desired generation N.
15. Process according to claim 14, characterised in that during steps a) and/or c) the ratio of the number of monomeric vinyl-cyanide units to the number of reactive sites is at least 1.
16. Process according to claim 14 or claim 15, characterised in that at least one of steps a) and c) is carried out in the presence of a weak acid.
17. Process according to any one of claims 14-16, characterised in that step a) is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 100°C.
18. Process according to any one of claims 14-17, characterised in that step b) is carried out in the presence of a reducing catalyst, which comprises at least a metal from group VIII of the periodic system of elements.
19. Process according to claim 18, characterised in that the catalyst is chosen from the group comprising Raney nickel and Raney cobalt.
20. Process according to claim 19, characterised in that use is made of 1-35 wt.% catalyst, relative to the total weight of the reaction mixture.

21. Process according to any one of claims 14-20,  
characterised in that step b) is carried out in a H<sub>2</sub>  
5 atmosphere at a hydrogen pressure between 1 and 500 bar  
and a temperature of between 20 and 200°C.
22. Process according to any one of claims 14-21,  
characterised in that the reaction steps take place in  
water, methanol, or a mixture of the two.
- 10 23. Process according to any one of claims 14-22,  
characterised in that the reaction steps take place  
without the interim isolation of the respective reaction  
products.
24. Polymer composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer  
15 and a dendritic macromolecule according to any one of  
claims 1-13.
25. Dendritic macromolecule as substantially described and  
elucidated with reference to the examples.
26. Process for the preparation of a dendritic macromolecule  
20 as substantially described and elucidated with reference  
to the examples.

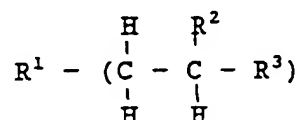
## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 18 June 1993 (18.06.93);  
original claims 1-26 replaced by amended claims 1-25 (5 pages)]

- 5 1. Dendritic macromolecule containing a core and branches emanating from the core, characterised in that the branches are prepared from vinyl-cyanide units, and that the molecular weight of the dendritic macromolecule is at least 1600.
- 10 2. Dendritic macromolecule containing a core and branches emanating from the core, characterised in that the branches are prepared from vinylcyanide units and in that the number of generations, N, is between 3 and 10.
- 15 3. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-2, characterised in that the core is a molecule that contains 1-10 functional groups which each, independently of one another, have a functionality of 1, 2 or 3.
- 20 4. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-2, characterised in that the core is a (co)polymer that contains at least one functional group, which functional group(s), independently of one another, have a functionality of 1, 2 or 3.
- 25 5. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-4, characterised in that the core contains a hydroxyl group, a primary amine group and/or a secondary amine group as functional group.
- 30 6. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-5, characterised in that the core is chosen from the group comprising polymethylene diamines, glycols and tris(1,3,5-aminoethyl)benzene.
- 35 7. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-6, a number of generations of branches being present, characterised in that the number of branches of the N<sup>th</sup> generation is larger than the number of reactive sites R of the core and smaller than or the same as the number of reactive sites R of the core

multiplied by  $2^{N-1}$ .

8. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of  
 5 claims 1-7, characterised in that the monomeric  
 vinyl-cyanide unit is acrylonitrile or meth-  
 acrylonitrile.
9. Dendritic macromolecule containing a core and  
 branches emanating from the core, whose branches  
 10 contain units according to the formula

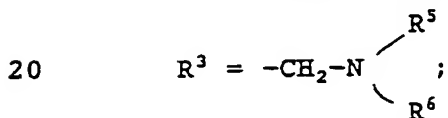


15

where

$R^1$  = the core or a unit of the previous generation;

$R^2$  = -H or -CH<sub>3</sub>;



$R^5$  = H or a unit of the next generation;

$R^6$  = H or a unit of the next generation,

where groups  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  in every

25

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{N} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow R^5 \\ \searrow R^6 \end{array}$  group may be the same or may differ from  
 one another

and the molecular weight is at least 1600, or in  
 which the number of generation is 3-10.

- 30 10. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of  
 claims 1-9, characterised in that it is entirely or  
 partly modified with functional groups.
11. Dendritic macromolecule according to claim 10,  
 characterised in that the functional groups are  
 35 chosen from the group comprising unsaturated  
 aliphatic esters and amides, acid halides, alkyl  
 halides, aryl halides, tosyl halides, anhydrides,  
 dicarboxylic acids and (a)cyclic aldehydes.

12. Dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-11, characterised in that the molecular weight is between 1600 and 100,000.
13. Process for the preparation of a dendritic macromolecule containing a core and branches, characterised in that the process comprises steps a) through c):
- a) substantially every functional group of the core is caused to react with a monomeric vinyl-cyanide unit;
  - b) substantially every incorporated nitrile unit is reduced to an amine group;
  - c) substantially every amine group is caused to react with monomeric vinyl-cyanide units;
- where steps b) and c) are carried out alternately in order to obtain a macromolecule with a molecular weight of at least 1600, or in which the number of generations N is 3-10.
14. Process for the preparation of a dendritic macromolecule containing a core and branches, characterised in that the process comprises steps a) through c):
- a) substantially every functional group of the core is caused to react with a monomeric vinyl-cyanide unit;
  - b) substantially every incorporated nitrile unit is reduced to an amine group in the presence of a reducing catalyst, which catalyst comprises at least a metal from group VIII of the periodic system of the elements, and H<sub>2</sub> gas;
  - c) substantially every amine group is caused to react with monomeric vinyl-cyanide units;
- where steps b) and c) are alternately carried out (N-1) times in order to obtain a macromolecule of the desired generation N, N being between 2-10.
15. Process according to any one of claims 13-14,

- characterised in that during steps a) and/or c) the ratio of the number of monomeric vinyl-cyanide units to the number of reactive sites is at least 1.
- 5 16. Process according to any one of claims 13-15, characterised in that:
- 10 a) at least 95% of the functional groups of the core is caused to react with a monomeric vinyl-cyanide unit;
- b) at least 95% of the incorporated nitrile units is reduced to an amine group;
- c) at least 95% of the amine groups is caused to react with monomeric vinyl-cyanide units.
- 15 17. Process according to claim 16, characterised in that:
- a) at least 99% of the functional groups of the core is caused to react with a monomeric vinyl-cyanide unit;
- 20 b) at least 99% of the incorporated nitrile units is reduced to an amine group;
- c) at least 99% of the amine groups is caused to react with monomeric vinyl-cyanide units.
- 25 18. Process according to any one of claims 13-17, characterised in that step b) is carried out in the presence of a reducing catalyst, which comprises at least a metal from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt, platinum, palladium and rhodium.
- 30 19. Process according to claim 18, characterised in that the catalyst is chosen from the group comprising Raney nickel and Raney cobalt.
20. Process according to claim 19, characterised in that use is made of 1-35 wt.% catalyst, relative to the total weight of the reaction mixture.
- 35 21. Process according to any one of claims 13-20, characterised in that step b) is carried out in a H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at a hydrogen pressure between 1 and 500 bar and a temperature of between 20 and 200°C.
22. Process according to any one of claims 13-21,

characterised in that the reaction steps take place in water, methanol, or a mixture of the two.

- 5 23. Polymer composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer and a dendritic macromolecule according to any one of claims 1-12.
24. Dendritic macromolecule as substantially described and elucidated with reference to the examples.
- 10 25. Process for the preparation of a dendritic macromolecule as substantially described and elucidated with reference to the examples.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL 93/00008

International Application No

<b>I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) <sup>6</sup>		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int.Cl. 5 C08G73/02		
<b>II. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum Documentation Searched <sup>7</sup>		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	C08G	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>		
<b>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT<sup>9</sup></b>		
Category <sup>10</sup>	Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>	Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup>
A	RO,A,68 153 (IOSIF DRIMUS E.A.) 15 July 1979 ---	
A	RO,A,68 272 (IOSIF DRIMUS E.A.) 30 April 1979 ---	
A	EP,A,0 002 148 (RHONE-POULENC) 30 May 1979 ---	
A	EP,A,0 135 725 (TOYA SODA MANUFACTURING) 3 April 1985 -----	
<p><sup>10</sup> Special categories of cited documents : <sup>10</sup></p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"A" document member of the same patent family</p>		
<b>IV. CERTIFICATION</b>		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search  31 MARCH 1993		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report  22 04. 93
International Searching Authority  EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE		Signature of Authorized Officer  STIENON P.M.E.



**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

NL 9300008  
SA 69392

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information. 31/03/93

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
RO-A-68153		None	
RO-A-68272		None	
EP-A-0002148	30-05-79	FR-A- 2409258 CA-A- 1096402 JP-A- 54092905 US-A- 4216171	15-06-79 24-02-81 23-07-79 05-08-80
EP-A-0135725	03-04-85	JP-C- 1651323 JP-B- 3014310 JP-A- 60032780 JP-C- 1663040 JP-B- 3026182 JP-A- 60092246 US-A- 4845297	30-03-92 26-02-91 19-02-85 19-05-92 10-04-91 23-05-85 04-07-89